1: Staden--154 (1553-54) 1928 Tupinamba
116, 411, 713

"They use bows, and the points of their arrows are made of bone, which they sharpen and bind to the arrows. They fashion them also of the teeth of a fish which they call Tiberaun and catch in the sea. Also they take cotton, and mixing it with wax, they bind it to the arrow and set fire to it. These are their fire-arrows."

2: Thevet-- 185-190 (1555) 1878 Tupinamba
411

Their weapons are big wooden swords, very massive and heavy, the rest bows and arrows. Their bows are half as long as those used by the Turks and the same is true of the arrows which are made of sea reeds, or from a tree called hairi .... The savages make their swords out of this wood.

2: Thevet--190 (1555) 1878 Tupinamba
116, 411

Their long shields are made of tapir skin. These shields are so strong that they can not be pierced by an arquebus.

4: Léry--I, 129
116, 411, 531

(1557) 1880

Tupinamba

They decorate their clubs with feather trimmings and the result is a marvelous sight for these feathers are so nicely selected and arranged,

5: Léry--519 (1557-1558) 1906 Tupinamba
116, 411, 281

"But that wilde beast [AW: the Tapir] is greatly esteemed by the Barbarians, by reason of the skinne, which as soone as they have taken away, cutting the backe of the hide in a round circle, they drie it in the Sunne, and fashion it like unto a Target of the bignesse of the bottome of an indifferent vessell, wherewith they repell the Arrowes, of the enemies, received in the warres. And the skinne dried in the Sunne becommeth so hard, that I easily beleeve that it cannot bee pierced through with the stroke of any weapon, although it bee cast with great violence. I carefully desired to bring two such Targets into France, but the famine so oppressed us returning, that all the provision of victuall being spent, not excepting Monkeyes and Parots, and other living creatures of the same kinde, which we brought with us out of that Countrie, those two Targets, being laid upon the coales, were also eaten to expell hunger; unto the which the rest of the skinnes that were in the ship (as I shall declare in their proper place) were added."

5: Léry--540 (1557-1558) 1906 Tupinamba
116, 137, 411

"Reeds often grow in the Woods, of the bignesse of a mans legge: but as I said before of Paco-aire, they are so tender, that while they are yet standing, any one of them may bee cut downe with one streake of a Sworde, yet being drie, they are of such hardnesse that when they are cleft, and fashioned after the manner of the Surgeons Lances, the Barbarians so head their Arrowes therewith, that they overthrow wilde beasts flat to the ground at one shoot."

5: Léry--543-544 (1557-1558) 1906 Tupinamba -1-2
116, 411

"And first surely, they have Tacapes, that is, Clubs, or Swords made some of redde, and some of blacke wood: they are commonly of the length of five or sixe feete, round at the ends, or of an ovall shape, of the breadth of a foote, and of the thicknesse of a Thumbe in the middest, but the edges are verie finely sharpened, for they are made of verie heavie wood, such as Boxe is, and are little inferior to the edge of a verie sharpe Axe: so that I easily beleeve, that one Tououpinambaultian armed with such a Clubbe, and inraged with furie, would bee able to put two of our Countrie Fencers to much trouble, and drive them to their shifts.

Moreover, they have Bowes, which they call Orapats, made of the same kinde of wood, to wit, redde and blacke; and they exceed ours so much in length and thicknesse, that none of our men is able either to bend or unbend them: insomuch as they are of necessitie to use all their strength for the bending of the Bowes of Children of tenne yeeres old. They use the herbe called Tocon, for strings, which although it bee verie slender, yet is it of so great a strength, that it may indure the force of an Horse. Their Arrowes are of the length of an Ell, made with three joynts: the middle part consisting of a Cane or Reede, and the other two of blacke wood: and those pieces are so aptly bound together with certaine barkes of Trees, that they could not bee more firmely glued. They apply two little feathers unto them, of the length of a foote, which they binde together with a Cotton Thread, because Glue is not in use with them: they aptly joyne very sharpe bones to the ends, sometimes a piece of a drie Reed, of the length of a mans hand, cut smooth

after the [544] manner of a Surgeons Launce: and sometimes the verie end of the taile of the fish Raye, which as I have elsewhere said, is verie venemous. But, since the Frenchmen and the Portugals came into those Countreyes, the Barbarians, after their manner have accustomed to strengthen their Arrowes with Iron heads, orat the least, with verie sharpe Nailes."

5: Léry--544 (1557-1558) 1906 Tupinamba
116, 411

"We have already spoken what their dexteritie is, in handling their Clubs: but as touching the Bowes, I hope that all they have seene the Barbarians, will confirme that with their naked armes, they shoot so speedily, and so certainly, that (bee it spoken by the Englishmens leave, who are yet accounted the most skilfull Archers) putting their Arrowes in the hand wherewith they hold their Bow, twelve may sooner bee shot by them, then sixe by the Englishmen.

Lastly, they have Targets of the Hide of Tapiroussou, which I mentioned before, broad, p[illegible]ne, and round, like to the bottome of a Germane Drumme, with these they cover not th[illegible]selves in fight, after the manner that our Souldiers use, but fighting, receive the Arrowes of the Enemies with them. So these are all the Weapons of the Americans: for they cover not their bodies with other Armour: but contrarily (excepting their Caps of Feathers, Bracelets, and other short attire, wherewith as aforesaid, they decke their bodie,) if they wore but a shirt, being about to goe unto the battaile, they would presently put it off, fearing least they might be intangled and incumbred therewith.

If they received Iron Swordes from us, as I gave one to a certaine Moussacat of mine, they presently cast away the sheathes: they did the like also receiving Knives, delighting in the brightnesse of them, and thought them more serviceable for the cutting of the boughs of Trees, then for fight."

6: Abbeville--222 (1611) 1614 Tupinamba
116, 322, 411

... The heart of this tree [MC: toucon-vue palm] is also black and as hard as ebony: the Indians use it to make their swords and bows.

6: Abbeville--237 (1611) 1614 Tupinamba
116, 411

...The eggs (MC: of the bird Inanbou-tin) are large like a chicken's and are all blue; the Indians use them to paint or apply on their swords when they go to war or when they wish to kill their prisoners for a feast.

6: Abbeville--288v-289v (1611) 1614 Tupinamba
116, 411

They have for arms only their bows, called ouyrapar, made of red or black wood, very hard, with a well twisted cotton string. Their arrows are called oouue and are very long, made of small reeds without any knot, to which they fix two feathers of different colors, a palm in length, and fastened with thread. The point is a piece of black wood, which they fix and tie at the end of the reeds with thread. This wood is over a foot, or a foot and a half long and is very sharp at the end. To some of them they fix sharp fish bones, as long and thick as the little finger, they tie them up very neatly, leaving an end upturned as a barb, so that if one [289] receives the arrow in the body it is better to pass the point through than to try to pull it out.... To other arrows they tie a piece of bamboo a foot long, two inches wide and very sharp. They call these strong arrows tacouărt. These arrows make large wounds.

Besides the bows and arrows, they have swords of red wood, very strong, 4 or 5 feet long, in the shape of a club, except that the end is not round, but wide and sharpened,... They also carry bucklers [289v] which they call ouăracapa, made of leather or very strong skin; they use them to cover the body and parry the arrows.

7: Evreux--202-203 (1611-13) 1864 Tupinamba
116, 411, 825

They use as feathers for their arrows, the feathers of birds of prey. They believed [203] that if the feathers of this bird were associated with those of any other bird, a parrot for instance, the eagle feathers would eat the other feathers.

8: Soares de Souza--213 (1570-87) 1851 Tupinamba
116, 322, 411

The Indians peel the bark from the goayaimbira, from the trunk cut in pieces from 10 to 12 palms [AM: seven feet] long. They remove the skin entirely and make out of it quivers to carry their bows and arrows.

[AM: This is the only mention of the quiver on the Brazilian coast]

8: Soares de Souza--214 (1570-87) 1851 Tupinamba
116, 322, 411

The Indians made their bows of the ubirapariba wood. It has a brownish color.

8: Soares de Souza--281 (1570-87) 1851 Tupinamba
116, 411

The Indians put shark's teeth at the extremity of their arrows.

8: Soares de Souza--329 (1570-87) 1851 Tupinamba
116, 411

They have shields made of soft light wood.

9: Cardim--430 (1583-1601) 1906 Tupinamba
116, 411

"The weapons of this people ordinarily are Bowes and Arrowes, and they boast themselves of them, and they make them of verie good wood, and verie faire interlaid with Palme-tree of sundrie colours, they die their strings greene, or red, and they make their Arrowes verie faire, seeking for them the fairest feathers they can find. They make these Arrowes of Sundrie Canes, and fasten in their points the teeth of beasts, or certaine verie hard Rushes, or sharpe stickes with many snagges, and many times they empoison them with herbes. These Arrowes to ones sight seeme a thing of mockerie, but are verie cruell Weapons, and pierce quilted breast-plates or curates; and striking in a sticke they cleave it asunder, and sometimes happen to goe through a man and sticke on the ground. They doe exercise themselves in these Weapons verie young, and are great Archers, and so certaine that no Bird can escape them be it never so little, or any vermine of the Woods; and there is no more but if they will shoot an Arrow through the eie of a bird or a man; or hit any other thing be it never so small, they doe it with great facilitie and with their owne safetie; and for this they are greatly feared. They are stout also and fierce, and dreadfull to others."

9: Cardim--431 (1583-1601) 1906 Tupinamba
116, 411

"They use also for Weapons Swords of wood, and interlay the ends of them with Palme-tree of sundrie colours, and set Plumes on them of divers colours, chiefly in their feasts and slaughters. And these Swords are verie cruell, for they make no wound, but bruise and breake a mans head without having any remedie of cure."

9: Cardim--487
116, 226, 411

(1583-1601) 1906

Tupinamba

"Upon this Coast are many sorts of Sharkes, and in it are found sixe or seven kinds of them; it is a very fierce and cruell fish, and kils many persons, especially those that swimme. The Rivers are full of them; they are so cruell that it happened one to runne after an Indian that went in a Boate, and put him in such a straight, that the young man leaping ashore, the Sharke leapt after him thinking to have caught him, and fell on drie land where they killed him. In the broad Sea where also are many, they kill them with Snares, and Harping Irons, and they are so eager, greedie, and love flesh, and they are so devouring, that they find in their bellies, skinnes, pieces of cloth, shirts and breeches, that fall from the Sailers, they goe ordinarily accompanied with certaine verie faire fishes of divers colours called Pelgrimes. They make great store of Oile of them, and the Indians use the teeth in their Arrowes, because they are verie sharpe, cruell, and venemous, and verie seldome, or with great difficultie are they healed that are hurt with them."

19: Métraux--81 E-4 (no date) 1928 Tupinamba
116, 411

[Footnote 2] The sword-club of the Tupinamba represented in fig. 5 is found in the Ethnographic Museum of Berlin (no. VB. 3654) where it arrived by routes unknown to us. Its total length is 1.20 meters and the greatest length of the head is 0.20 meters. The handle is decorated with a thick fringe formed of a thread of vegetable origin, each one wound with a relatively thick cotton cord. The extremity of these tassels thus obtained ends in a tuft of red plumes, probably of ibis ruhra, of which only a few fragments remain today. The origin of this weapon has been determined without difficulty thanks to the minute descriptions of the ancient chroniclers... The identification of this object has also been greatly facilitated by the reproductions which have been made in the ancient editions of the first voyagers; one can ascertain the fidelity of these designs by comparing our photograph with the fig. 6 taken from the first edition of Staden. Not less striking is the resemblance between our sword-club with those supplied by the Tupinamba warriors which one can see in Thevet. I discovered another Tupinamba sword-club at the Trocadero Museum at Paris where it is catalogued under No. 1102. It is placed in the hands of a mannequin representing an Indian of Brazil (Carijona! ?). This example is in all points identical to that of Berlin; the fringes which adorn the end are better preserved although they have been eaten by worms. This piece, truly unique probably came to France in the 16th century with Thevet or some other collector who ceded it to the king. As the ethnographic collections belonging to the king have passed in large part to the Trocadero Museum, the presence of this object there is easily explained...

~~19: Métraux--82~~
116, 411

E-4

(no date) 1928

Tupinamba

Fig. 5.

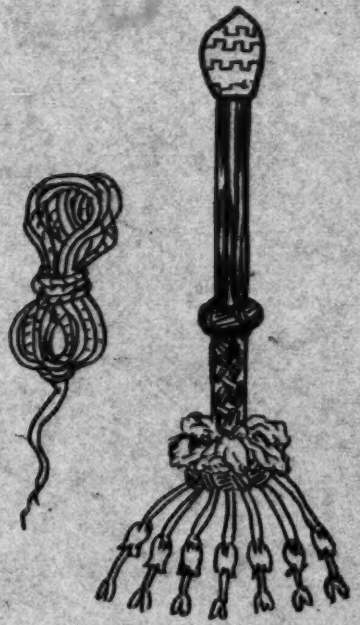

Fig. 6.

20: Heriarte--16 F-2 (1662) 1874 Tupinamba
116, 411

Their arms consist of the bow and arrow and some pieces of wood, worked in their own fashion, which serve as swords, the latter being called Tamarana, or pao de jucar, (1) and with which they bash in the heads of their enemies.

1. As nearly as I [G. V.] can determine, this phrase is half Portuguese and half Tupí, and means "killing wood"; from pau (Port., wood) and Juká (Tupí, to kill).

23: Acuña--157 [2] T-3 (1639) 1698 Tupinamba-
116, 411, 181

"These Warlike Savages use Bows and Arrows with great dexterity, and have so noble a Courage, and Greatness of Mind, that in these Qualities they seem not to come behind the most accomplish'd Nations in Europe."

26: Thevet--245 G-3 (1555) 1928 Tupinamba
411

This same day in the presence of prisoners, swords were carried by each one in a new pot, holding at least half a barrel, and 2 other small pots, in which were gum, feathers, and cotton thread for the costume. They were carried to the north house, in which place each of these swords were properly decorated with feathers by each old woman, to tie a line of cotton on the lower end, in order to make them stronger and afterwards were also gummed at the point, and flat part of the sword, on which they made many well placed scars on the gum; they placed over that some beaten egg.

26: Thevet—249 G-3 (1555) 1928 Tupinamba
411

These clubs are made of two kinds of wood, Ouapparrap, which is black Iacarensa, which is deep red, and Reruigappen, which is reddish.